

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 1120  
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120  
Phone: (502) 582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277  
E-mail: [nass-ky@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ky@nass.usda.gov)  
and the  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Richie Farmer, Commissioner  
Published twice monthly

Volume No. 24 Issue No. 4  
Released: February 4, 2005

**FEATURING:**    ♦ Cattle                ♦ Sheep                ♦ Cattle on Feed                ♦ Slaughter  
                         ♦ Farm Numbers                ♦ Livestock Operations

## KENTUCKY CATTLE INVENTORY DECLINES

Favorable cattle prices helped hold herd growth in check for January 1, 2005. Total Cattle and Calves on **Kentucky** farms January 1, 2005 was estimated at 2.25 million head, down 3 percent from last year. The decline was due in part to farmers selling down inventory to take advantage of record high cattle prices. Heifers over 500 pounds increased from January 1, 2004, steers over 500 pounds and cattle on feed were unchanged, while all other inventory levels decreased.

All Cow inventory for 2005 totaled 1.20 million head, down 3 percent from 2004. Beef cow inventory totaled 1.09 million head, down 3 percent from last year. Milk cows were down 2 percent to a new record low of 110,000 head. Bulls over 500 pounds totaled 75,000 head, down 6 percent from 2004.

Heifers over 500 pounds inventory was estimated at 315,000 head, up 2 percent from a year ago. Beef replacement heifers were also up from the previous year totaling 170,000 head, a 6 percent increase. Milk replacement heifers increased to 45,000 head, heifers for other uses decreased to 100,000 head.

Steers over 500 pounds totaled 190,000, unchanged from the previous year. Calves under 500 pounds decreased 6 percent to 470,000 head.

The 2004 calf crop was estimated at 1.04 million head, down 6 percent from the 2003 level. Cattle on feed for slaughter totaled 10,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2004.

**U.S. class** estimates on January 1, 2005 and the change from January 1, 2004, are as follows:

- - **All cattle and calves**, 95.8 million, up 1 percent.
- - **All cows and heifers that have calved**, 42.1 million, up 1 percent.
- - **Beef cows**, 33.06 million, up 1 percent.
- - **Milk cows**, 9.01 million, up slightly.
- - **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 19.7 million, up 2 percent.
- - **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.75 million, up 4 percent.
- - **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.13 million, up 3 percent.
- - **Other heifers**, 9.79 million, down slightly.
- - **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, 16.5 million, up 1 percent.
- - **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over**, 2.22 million, up 1 percent.
- - **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.4 million, up 1 percent.
- - **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.7 million, down slightly.

**CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS,  
CATTLE ON FEED, AND CALF CROP  
JANUARY 1, 2004 - 2005**

CLASS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2004	2005	05 % of 04	2004 <u>1/</u>	2005	05 % of 04
	(1,000 Head)			(1,000 Head)		
Cattle and Calves	2,320	2,250	97	94,888	95,848	101
Cows and Heifers (That have calved)	1,240	1,200	97	41,851	42,060	101
Beef Cows	1,128	1,090	97	32,861	33,055	101
Milk Cows	112	110	98	8,990	9,005	100
Heifers 500 Lbs & over	310	315	102	19,345	19,673	102
Beef Cow Replacement	160	170	106	5,518	5,746	104
Milk Cow Replacement	40	45	113	4,020	4,133	103
Other Heifers	110	100	91	9,806	9,793	100
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	190	190	100	16,277	16,511	101
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	80	75	94	2,206	2,219	101
Calves Under 500 Lbs	500	470	94	15,210	15,385	101
Cattle on Feed <u>2/</u>	10	10	100	13,813	13,749	100
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	1,110	1,040	94	37,903	37,625	99

1/ Revised. 2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

## SHEEP AND GOATS

Goats in **Kentucky** were estimated at 70,000 head and sheep were estimated at 32,000 head. Sheep and lamb numbers have rebounded from January 1, 2004 and this is the first year that goats have been estimated in the State. Farmers in Kentucky have been diversifying in recent years and have started raising goats for slaughter as another source of income.

The total number of sheep in Kentucky on January 1, 2005 was up 6,000 from the 2004 number of 26,000. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 26,000, an increase of 4,000. All market sheep and lambs increased by 2,000 to 6,000. Breeding ewes increased by 2,000 to 18,000 and breeding rams increased by 500 to 2,500. Replacement lambs numbered 5,500, an increase from 4,000 in 2004. Lamb crop for 2004 increased by 1,000 from 2003 to 22,000.

For the first time, Kentucky's total goat population was estimated on January 1, 2005 at 70,000 head. Kentucky's Angora goat population was estimated at 950 head, milk goats and kids at 5,500 and all meat and other goats and kids at 63,500. All breeding goats and kids were estimated at 58,120 head and the kid crop was 51,500.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and was showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled 1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep. The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

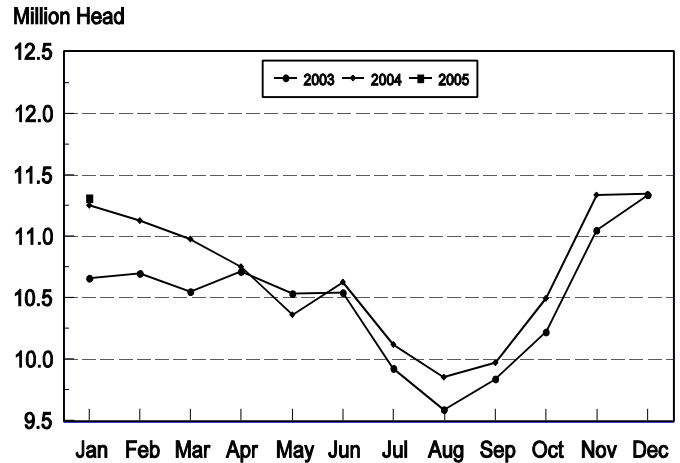
All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 2.5 million head. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.1 million head and market goats totaled 0.4 million head. On January 1, 2005, meat and all other goats totaled 1.97 million head, milk goats totaled 283,500 head and angora goats totaled 274,000 head. The 2004 kid crop was 1.67 million head for all goats.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on January 1, 2005. The inventory was slightly above January 1, 2004 and 6 percent above January 1, 2003. The inventory included 7.19 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.05 million head, down 7 percent from January 1, 2004.

**Placements** in feedlots during December totaled 1.83 million, 5 percent above 2003 and 14 percent above 2002. This was the highest placements for the month of December since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.74 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 465,000, 600-699 pounds were 558,000, 700-799 pounds were 489,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 322,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.78 million, 2 percent above 2003 but 1 percent below 2002. **Other disappearance** totaled 92,000 during December, 2 percent above 2003 but 7 percent below 2002.

United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in December 2003. December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. December 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.69 million head, up 1 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,268 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.25 million head, 1 percent below December 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY <sup>1/</sup>

Type	December 2003	November 2004	December 2004	December 04 % of	
				December 2003	November 2004
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	1,978	*1,940	2,042	103	105
Veal	19.0	13.8	14.9	78	108
Pork	1,869	*1,799	1,857	99	103
Lamb & Mutton	18.0	16.5	17.0	94	103
Total U.S.	3,884	*3,769	3,931	101	104
Total Kentucky	47.3	42.6	41.2	87	97

<sup>1/</sup> Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. \* Revised.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 2003 & 2004 <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.8	1.8	1,562	1,608	864	874
Hogs	232.7	200.0	61,870	53,774	266	269
Sheep & Lambs	1.0	0.8	112	99	117	123
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,675.3	2,690.5	3,329,388	3,410,781	1,244	1,268
Hogs	9,361.0	9,250.1	2,518,208	2,496,511	269	270
Sheep & Lambs	261.9	242.4	35,952	33,846	137	140

<sup>1/</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

# KENTUCKY FARM NUMBERS AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

There were 85,000 farms in **Kentucky** during 2004, down 2,000 farms from the previous year. The average size of Kentucky farms, at 162 acres, was up 3 acres from 2003. A farm is defined as “any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year”. Government payments are included in sales. Institutional farms as well as experimental and research farms are included as farms. Places with their entire acreage enrolled in the government programs such as the Conservation or Wetland Reserve programs are considered farms. Nationally, Kentucky ranks fourth tied with Tennessee in number of farms. States with more farms than Kentucky include Texas with 229,000, Missouri with 106,000 and Iowa with 89,700. Of the 85,000 Kentucky farms, 54,500 had sales of \$1,000-\$9,999, 24,800 had sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 and 5,700 had sales of \$100,000 or more. Land in farms remains constant at 13.8 million acres. Farmland accounted for 54 percent of the approximate 25.4 million total acres in Kentucky.

The number of Kentucky farms with cattle and calf operations totaled 45,000 in 2004. Beef cow operations were 38,000, milk cows at 2,300, hog and pigs at 1,000, sheep and lambs at 1,100. Compared to a year earlier cattle and calf operations were down 1,000 operations, beef cows were down 1,000 operations, milk cows down 200 operations, sheep and lambs down 100 operations and hog and pigs were unchanged.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2004 was estimated at 2.11 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2003.

Total land in farms, at 936.6 million acres, decreased 2.25 million acres, or 0.2 percent, from 2003. The average farm size was 443 acres in 2004, an increase of 2 acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and transfers of agricultural land to competing uses. Farm numbers declined in the 2 smallest economic sales classes and rose in the 3 largest economic sales classes. Part of the reduction in the small economic sales classes was due to normal attrition, mostly retirements. In addition, some operations transferred to larger economic sales classes by enterprise expansion. However, the majority of the changes in the economic sales classes were due to rising incomes. Many operations near the top of their economic sales class in 2003, moved into the next larger economic sales class in 2004. The largest percentage changes from 2003 occurred in the smallest and largest economic sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.6 percent, to 1.18 million farms, in the \$1,000-\$9,999 economic sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 4.7 percent, to 76,740 farms, in the \$500,000 or more economic sales class. The number of farms with at least \$10,000 in sales rose 0.6 percent from 2003 and the number of farms with at least \$100,000 in sales rose 2.0 percent.

The number of operations with cattle and calves totaled 989,460 during 2004. Beef cows totaled 774,630, milk cows were 81,440, hogs and pigs were 69,420, sheep and lambs were 67,160. Compared to a year earlier, cattle and calf operations were down 2 percent from 2003, beef cows down 2 percent, milk cows down 6 percent, hogs down 6 percent and sheep down less than 1 percent.

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

---